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JAEGER ENCOURAGES EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE TIME OFF FOR VOTING

Bismarck, ND - Secretary of State Al Jaeger encourages North Dakota businesses and employers to provide time for their employees to vote at the upcoming general election scheduled for November 5.

"Ensuring that our state's diverse and busy work force has the opportunity to vote should be the goal and interest of all North Dakota employers," said Jaeger. "A strong voter turnout is healthy for our communities, our state, and our businesses and government. It's good for all of us."

According to Jaeger, North Dakota law supports employees being given time to vote.

"Although not mandated, state law encourages employers to establish programs to provide their employees the necessary time to vote if their work schedules conflict with the hours for voting," said Jaeger.

North Dakotans are generally civic-minded and put a lot of emphasis on the importance of voting. As a result, Jaeger believes that employers in the state already do an admirable job of accommodating their employees to allow them time to vote.

"However, if a voter is a shift worker or works odd hours, he or she may find it difficult to find the time to get to the polls and vote," observed Jaeger. "This is especially true of families who have to balance busy work schedules with picking up kids and getting them to and from school or to their extracurricular activities."

"I just want to remind employers of the important roll they play in supporting the election process and also reassure them that the flexibility they provide their employees is supported by state law."

Most voting locations across the state for the upcoming general election will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. However, there are exceptions where voting locations will open and close at different times. The law allows voting locations to open as early as 7:00 a.m. and close as late as 9:00 p.m. For a listing of all county precinct locations and the hours of voting, check out the Secretary of State's web site at www.state.nd.us/sec.

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